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30 November 1962

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29 November 1962

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

2. Congo: Military leaders attracted by offers of Soviet military equipment. (Page 3)

3. Algeria: Government assumes more balanced posture in foreign affairs. (Page 4)

25X1

6. Notes: South Vietnam, Guatemala, 25X1
25X1

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Congo: Congolese military leaders appear increasingly attracted by the idea of obtaining Soviet military equipment to solve the Katanga problem.

An official in the Soviet Embassy at Leopoldville reportedly told General Mobutu's deputy on 27 November that if the Congo asked for assistance, within one week Moscow would provide enough aid to end Katanga's secession within two months.

The Congolese officer claims that young officers are receptive to this argument.

General Mobutu has told US officials he regrets that Adoula's government has not accepted Soviet military aid. He charged that the West and the UN had failed to provide enough help to regain control of Katanga.

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Algeria: The Ben Bella government is assuming a more balanced posture in foreign affairs.

Algerian officials have notably toned down their heretofore extravagant praise of Castro and Communist China. An Algerian official told the US charge on 23 November that Ben Bella was "sore" at the Cubans, who he felt had misled the Algerians.

In a general review of foreign policy developments before the Algerian Assembly on 24 November, Foreign Minister Khemisti did not mention Communist China. In a short passage on Cuba, he did not refer to Castro or any other Cuban leader by name. Khemisti stated that the Algerians hoped to resume aid talks with the US.

This more moderate attitude may stem from a growing realization of the country's need for massive economic assistance. Khemisti is now in Paris for his first talks with the French.

The banning of the Algerian Communist Party on 28 November is a further indication that Ben Bella intends to tolerate no interference in carrying out his national program.

25X1

30 Nov 62

DAILY BRIEF

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

30 Nov 62

25X1

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